

THE WESTER Thursday, June 2, 2005

# Our Lady of Lourdes pastor 'steps down' due to health problems

## Father Minogue faces more surgery June 10, decides timing is right

By Jack Hawn

His one-page letter to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic parishioners appeared in their bulletin distributed at last weekend Masses.

"As you know," the Rev. Michael Minogue began, "for many months now I have been having health challenges that have taken me away from my normal duties as your pastor....In light of my ongoing medical challenges and my upcoming surgery to the second carotid artery on June 10th, I feel that it is in the best interest of the parish that I step down as pastor effective June 1, 2005. This is the usual time of year that priest assignments are made by the diocese, so hopefully a new pastor will be named shortly."

During much of this year, Associate Pastor Richard C. Ryan has been running the parish, which also includes the Prince of Peach Church, built and paid for during Fr. Minogue's reign. It's been estimated that as many as 8,000 attend weekend Masses.

"... We have a vibrant parish council, finance council, and strong, active ministries," his letter continued. "...It has been a privilege to work with the many organizations and individuals of our parish... I want to say a special word of thanks to Fr. Ryan and the parish staff. Through the good times and bad, they have

been a wonderful support to me and to this parish community."

Receptions for Fr. Minogue will follow the 4 p.m. Mass Saturday in Madonna Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and immediately after the 9 a.m. Mass Sunday at Prince of Peace Hall.

It was 12 years ago when I first sat with Fr. Minogue in his office. The following is a reprint of part of the article from that interview, published in The Wester July 8, 1993:

He laughs easily and his eyes sparkle behind black-rimmed glasses as he talks about his exciting past, the Irish accent predictably dominant. But sad memories and the serious discussion of a new challenge reflect a far deeper personality.

After only a brief, initial meeting, you are left with the distinct impression that Father Michael Joseph Minogue, the newly appointed 57-year-old pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sun City West is, indeed, a man of substance—farmboy-tough, yet capable of a gentle sensitivity.

An acknowledged sports fan, he follows basketball mostly, but apparently isn't much of a participant in any sports activity. He used to enjoy tennis, he said, but hasn't held a racquet in several years.

He hasn't touched his golf clubs since being ordained 12 years ago.

Sundome productions may be far more appealing. "What I miss most of all is the theater," he said, his face brightening.

When asked how he prefers to be addressed by parishioners, he replied, "I think Father Minogue is a bit more formal for now. I think there has to be a division...."

Then, with a lighter touch: "Father Mike. That's OK."

And, finally, smiling, "I don't mind one way or the other."

Having assumed his new responsibilities July 1, Father Minogue, formerly pastor at Our Lady of the Valley in Phoenix for five years, is hardly settled. Yet, he seems to be making friends quickly with his warm handshakes and friendly greetings as curious parishioners file out of church.

A husky man who admittedly may never fully adjust to the oppressive summer heat of this community, Father Minogue nonetheless says he couldn't be happier about having been chosen to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Father Cornelius Moynihan.

"I was so elated when the bishop called me and said I had been appointed to Our Lady of Lourdes," he said. "It was just great. Parishioners are more settled here. I long for stability and continuity."

Changes?

EVER



Fr. Michael Minogue

"It's not my style to come in and make any changes," he replied. "I want to get to know people. I need to know what needs to be done. Their needs to be input. A parish for the most part runs itself."

The same certainly could not have been said for the Minogue farm in County Clare, Ireland, where young Michael grew up half a century ago.

The eldest of six children (three sisters and two brothers), Michael worked hard on the farm. Even then, he thought of becoming a priest, "but my father wouldn't let me leave. He needed me to work on the farm. We didn't have much, but we were happy."

Years later, "I felt the call to the priesthood (again), in 1974."

By then, at age 38, adventurous Mike Minogue had sailed around the world "maybe 10 times" while working for the P&O cruise ship line.

As chief petty officer in the

British Merchant Navy between 1962-68, Minogue was the liaison between the captain and the crew, 600 to 700 men.

"I was in charge of disciplinary problems, in charge of entertainment. I ran tours for the crew."

It was an exciting life, one he probably never would have experienced had he married the woman he was engaged to in the early '60s.

"We called it off," he said, with a shrug. "I had a tremendous desire to travel. She didn't. That was the reason for my joining the British Merchant Navy. I wanted to see the world."

"I still like to travel, but I don't think it will happen unless I win the lottery."

Still, before taking his vows, he had journeyed to the Holy Land twice, directed an overseas tour, visited Rome and traveled to Ireland each year.

After finally dropping anchor in 1968, Minogue found the hotel business to his liking. Again, he moved around, working as assistant manager at top-rated hotels in Honolulu, New York, Florida and San Francisco.

But in 1973, the sudden death of his 69-year-old father ("He took a nap one afternoon and died in his sleep") triggered some deep-rooted thoughts that ultimately led Minogue to the priesthood.

"I was living in the fast lane," he recalled. "I had lots of money. I was comfortable. I was not thinking about tomorrow. I had a social life, parties, that sort of

thing. It was great shock when my father died. I flew home for the funeral.

"I began to reflect on my own life. There has to be more to it than what I'm experiencing," he thought.

He began to attend daily Mass, devoted more time to prayers, "and out of that came the call to priesthood."

He was ordained a priest in 1981 in Phoenix.

No one else in his immediate family has entered the religious life, but "I have a lot of cousins who are priests in Australia, one cousin who is a nun."

Father Minogue's parents are dead now and so is one brother, who was tragically killed eight years ago during an electrical storm.

"He picked up the telephone and was electrocuted," the pastor said, "right in front of his wife and four children. It was such a tragedy."

A seemingly compassionate man, Father Minogue said his "special love is (aiding) the sick and homebound. I love working in hospital involvement. The Lord is very present in hospitals."

"People are reaching the end of their years in pain, suffering, and wondering why. Many are not into religion. There is a great comfort to bring religion to them, to hold hands, to let them talk, even to cry with them, to be very sensitive."

He paused, then added matter-of-factly: "All have their stories to tell."

SCW

THE WESTER Thursday, May 12, 2005

# 12-ton pipe organ finally arrives at SCW church from Rotterdam

## 'Suspicious' cargo delayed in Texas by customs officials

By Jack Hawn

After crossing the Atlantic from Rotterdam to the port at Galveston, Tex., followed by a roundabout train trip to the Youngtown area by way of Los Angeles and a truck ride to Sun City West, a crated 12-ton pipe organ—built in The Netherlands—finally arrived last Friday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where it will be installed.

David Mueller, an organist who directs the Gloria Dei Choir at Lourdes, explained the organ's indirect arrival from Galveston.

"It had to be transported west to Los Angeles and back to Phoenix because Phoenix had no place to unload it," he said. "It went down the tracks on Grand Avenue and was trucked from an unloading place near Youngtown."

Mueller said the "huge cargo container" was x-rayed when it went through customs in



Gloria Dei Choir Director David Mueller, an organist at Prince of Peace and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic churches in Sun City West, says the keyboard on the pipe organ to be installed at Lourdes will look no different than the one at which he is seated.

Galveston.

"They couldn't figure out what it was," he said. "They thought it might be a missile or a bomb. They held it up for a few days."

The interior of the church, at 19002 N. 128th Ave., has been undergoing extensive work on a

back wall since shortly after Easter to prepare for the organ's installation, which, Mueller said, will take six more weeks.

"The sub-structure took three weeks," Facilities Mgr. Frank

See **Pipe Organ**, Page 2

### Pipe Organ, from Page 1

Moskal said, "tearing down the wall, reinforcing it. All the dirty work is done. Now we have to put superstructure up to hold the pipes."

Masses have been said on Saturday evenings and Sundays since work began, but weekday Masses have been held in Madonna Hall, adjoining the church.

Paid for in its entirety—including transportation costs—by an anonymous parishioner, the organ has 18 sets of pipes, 61 in each set. It was built by Phelps and Van Luenn. The donor requested the price of the organ not

be disclosed.

Mueller said the keyboards won't look any different, but, of course, hearing aids might have to be adjusted when the pipes finally blast off at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 25 at a dedication ceremony.

"That's the first time," Mueller added, "that the congregation will hear it."

SCW

Thursday, January 27, 2005 THE WESTER Page

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish silver anniversary celebrations conclude with mortgage burning

By Joseph Kimberley

A congregation of almost 1,800 was on hand on Sunday, Jan. 23, in Prince of Peace Church for the special 11 a.m. Mass concluding the 25th Anniversary Year of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Phoenix, the Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted and con-celebrated by parish pastor Fr. Michael J. Minogue and associate pastor, Fr. Richard C. Ryan as well as visiting and retired priests. The O.L.L. Knights of Columbus formed an honor guard for the procession of the clergy as well as bearers of the banners for each of the ministries in the parish.

The combined choirs of Our Lady of Lourdes church and Prince of Peace Church provided the music. They were accompanied by organ and piano as well as violins, percussion and the superb ensemble of the Southwest Brass. It was an impressive

occasion.

It was 25 years ago, Jan. 31, 1979, that some 30 parishioners of the newly-formed parish of Our Lady of Lourdes met for its first Mass in the Social Hall of the R.H. Johnson Rec Center. Rev. Fr. Vincent Nevulis was the founding pastor of the parish. It didn't take long for the small parish to grow, and Fr. Nevulis soon had to rent a house on Prospect Drive to accommodate the growing congregation. Chairs and sofas served as the first "pews."

Ground was broken for Madonna Hall—the first permanent church structure built in Sun City West—on February 8, 1981. The building was dedicated one year later. It served as both church and parish activity center until the Fall of 1988.

Rev. Cornelius Moynihan was named pastor in 1985. Plans began in earnest to build a church adjacent to Madonna Hall on the corner of 128th Avenue and



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish pastor Rev. Michael J. Minogue (r) and associate pastor Rev. Richard C. Ryan (c) look on as Bishop of Phoenix Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted addresses the crowd at the mortgage burning ceremony at Prince of Peace Church.

Photo, Joseph Kimberley

Marble Drive. Fittingly, ground was broken for Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Dec. 13, 1987. The first Mass was celebrated in the church on Nov. 10, 1988. By the time Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien dedicated the new church on Feb. 26, 1989, the parish had grown to 1,600 families.

Upon Fr. Moynihan's retire-

ment in 1993, Rev. Michael J. Minogue was named pastor and has led the parish ever since through the years of incredible growth. Membership increased dramatically from the mid to late 1990's and it was obvious, from the burgeoning communities of Sun City West, Sun City Grand and Surprise, that the local church of Our Lady of Lourdes simply could not cope with the increasing demands. A second church was needed.

OVER

In 1994, the Diocese of Phoenix announced that a "sister church" to Our Lady of Lourdes would be built in Sun City West. It was a unique concept—one parish with two churches—that was heretofore unknown, certainly within the Diocese and quite possibly anywhere else. Until the new church could be built and dedicated, overflow Masses were celebrated in the Palm Ridge Rec Center. On April 18, 1999, the magnificent Prince of Peace was dedicated. In high season, more than 9,000 now attend weekend Masses in the two churches.

Within the Catholic Church community throughout the United States, Our Lady of Lourdes now stands as a shining example of what parishioners can achieve when heart and mind become one for the good. "We have an exceptional parish of very kind and extremely generous people," Fr. Minogue has said more than once. He applauded their accomplishments of what the parish has

achieved over its 25 years. There are still a few parishioners around who remember the very first days.

And so, the conclusion of the 25th year became a joyous occasion when hundreds jammed the courtyard of Prince of Peace Church following the Mass to witness the burning of the mortgage and be told by their pastor that both churches were "paid for and debt free!" Cheers, applause and hundreds of balloons took to the sky as the symbolic piece of paper representing the mortgage was placed on the fire.

A mariachi band played music during the luncheon which was set up in Prince of Peace Hall as well as in glorious warm sunshine in the courtyard. The day was a double celebration for Bishop Olmsted. It also was his birthday which brought the large crowd to its feet singing 'Happy Birthday' to him.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

A Knights of Columbus honor guard from Sun Cities Assembly 1673 frames the processional at the 25th anniversary Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sun City West Saturday.

# 'Chief shepherd' celebrates Mass

## Bishop marks Our Lady of Lourdes' silver anniversary

JESSI TODDEN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted visited the West Valley Saturday for the first time since his installation as bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix.

More than 1,200 faithful crowded into the sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where the bishop helped celebrate its 25th anniversary.

In December, the 56-year-old Olmsted, became the

fourth bishop of the diocese since its formation in 1969; he was previously bishop in Wichita, Kan.

Olmsted was escorted into the church by priests from the West Valley and walked down the aisle through a canopy of swords raised by the Knights of Columbus honor guard from Sun Cities Assembly 1673.

During the celebratory Mass, which included readings from the books of Jeremiah, Luke and I Corinthians, the bishop recalled

Pope John Paul II's definition of a successful parish, citing the necessity to be "intensely eucharistic."

"Mass — celebrated with depth and focus — says a lot about the faith of a parish," Olmsted said.

To be eucharistic is to be a "person of love," he said.

"Love is patient, love is kind."

Olmsted said a eucharistic parish should also reclaim Sunday as the Lord's day and encouraged the congregants to reflect.

The second thing a parish needs to be successful is to be in a state of great hope, Olmsted said.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted blesses the altar with incense to begin the 25th anniversary Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sun City West Saturday.

"The parish is a source of hope," he said.

Finally, a good parish has a missionary spirit, he said.

After the homily, Olmsted led communion, which moved smoothly despite a medical emergency that required

surprise firefighters to wheel a man out of the sanctuary on a gurney.

Eileen Soltis, a winter visitor from Minnesota, thought the 25th anniversary a good

opportunity to visit the parish she calls home while in Arizona. Lately, her husband has been ill and she hasn't been able to attend Mass as much as she'd like.

"I thought he (Olmsted) was very nice. He has a nice voice," Soltis said. "That was a very nice message and things the church should be

concentrating on."

Three weeks before Olmsted became the new bishop, the Rev. Michael Minogue, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, sent him a letter requesting his presence at the anniversary.

Olmsted said he could hardly refuse the warm welcome.

"He's the chief shepherd. It was tremendous to have him here to celebrate our 25th

anniversary," said the Rev. Richard Ryan.

The church at 19002 N. 128th Ave. continued anniversary festivities Sunday, when 25 doves were released after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Radio station KXEG broadcast its Radio Family Rosary Program live from the church Sunday evening.

The church began with 30 members under founding pastor the Rev. Vincent

Nevulis in 1979. The parish expanded to the point that another church was needed, and Prince of Peace Catholic Church was built as part of the Catholic Community of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Combined, the two churches have more than 10,000 parishioners.

Jessi Todden may be reached at 876-2531 or [jtodden@aztrib.com](mailto:jtodden@aztrib.com).

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, AND SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

# Fire forces Mass from sanctuary

## Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church must meet in Madonna Hall until smoke damage is cleared

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 19002 N. 128th Ave. in Sun City West, won't be celebrating Mass in their sanctuary Sunday — and probably not for at least a couple of Sundays thereafter.

The sanctuary sustained extensive smoke and wire damage during a fire that broke out about 8 p.m. Monday, said parish manager

Suellen Johnston.

The church will hold services in Madonna Hall for two weeks to two months, she said. The sanctuary has the capacity to hold 1,200 churchgoers, while the hall's capacity is only 600.

Johnston said the main problem the church is facing is getting the word out to its congregation. She said this weekend will be a challenge, but church members will be informed that the parish's other Sun City West church — Prince of Peace Catholic

Church at 14818 W. Deer Valley Road — is available. Prince of Peace can hold 1,500 people.

Sun City West Fire Department Battalion Chief Steve Penney said the fire started in rags that were laced with linseed oil. He said the rags were left behind in a small storage area.

Penney said when kept in small, enclosed rooms, linseed oil soaked rags can cause spontaneous combustion, which is what happened Monday night.

"It was a sealed-up room with a lot of heat," he said.

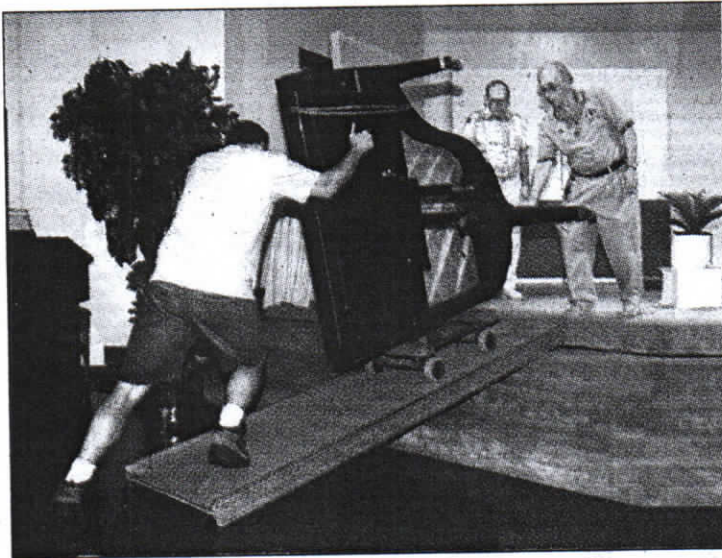
The fire, Penney said, was smoldering in the small room when firefighters arrived. When they opened the room, the fire's intensity increased for a few seconds because of the influx of additional oxygen.

Penney said the fire was put out in a matter of minutes, and he thought most of the damage was contained to the storage room. He said any smoke that spread to other parts of the church was the result of firefighters opening the door to the sealed-up room.

Penney said the damage was minimal and placed the loss at less than \$1,000.

Johnston said church members will attempt to clear the smoke damage from the sanctuary this weekend. At the present time, she said, the sanctuary does not have air-conditioning, and some of its lighting is inoperable.

• *Michael Mares* can be reached at 876-2513 or [mmares@aztrib.com](mailto:mmares@aztrib.com).



**STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN**

Greg Gerber of Mesa, from left, Frank Moskal and Bob Ross of Sun City West move a piano from the altar to Madonna Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Friday.



SATURDAY, MARCH 8, AND SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2003

# SCW mourns longtime priest

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A priest who served local parishes died Thursday in Sun City West.

The Rev. Albert D. Bull, 87, died March 6 in Sun City West. Originally from Chicago, Bull was a retired Army colonel who served as a chaplain in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Bull was born July 23, 1915.

"He was a Catholic priest, and he wanted to go into the service and serve his country," recalled Bull's sister Marie Bernero of Sun City West.

Bull served Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sun City West and also gave masses on occasion in Sun City, Bernero said.

"He was a very giving person and he loved to help people," his sister recalled. "Everybody loved him."

"When he gave a homily at church, he didn't speak from a book — he spoke from the heart."

Bull knew from a young age he wanted to be a priest and went from eighth-grade to preparatory school, and on to seminary at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, Bernero

said.

Bull's career in the military took him all over the country. He served parishes in Colorado and Arizona, including Good Shepherd of the Desert in Congress.

Bull moved to Sun City West in 1995, Bernero said.

"He lived in Sun City West, and he helped out in Wickenburg and Aguila," she said.

Bull is survived by two sisters, Margaurite Israelson of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Bernero, and a brother, Earl of Orange Park, Fla.

Bernero said Bull had a serious heart attack two years ago.

"He never has really ever come back from that," she said. Bull fell about one week ago and didn't break any bones but was hospitalized, Bernero said.

On Tuesday morning, Bull had a serious stroke, Bernero said. It left him unconscious and he was put on life support. As per his wishes in his living will, Bull was taken off life support on Thursday, Bernero said.

Mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 19002 N. 128th Ave., Sun City West.

SCW

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, June 30, 1997

## ***Bishop consecrates site***



Mark Schiefelbein/Daily News-Sun

The Most Rev. Thomas J. O'Brien, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, celebrates Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sun City West on Sunday morning. After Mass, O'Brien consecrated the ground at the site of a future church near 151st Avenue and Deer Valley Road.

*Our Lady of Lourdes*

# Crowded church requests space

## More than 5,000 pack SCW Catholic church

By TRACY CHARUHAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Pastors glory over packed pews, but in Sun City West overcrowding at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church sent church leaders on a search for additional space to accommodate worshippers.

Fred Dunikoski, chairman of the church's overcrowding committee, said that every weekend more than 5,000 people pack Our Lady of Lourdes for five Masses.

Sun City West's only Catholic church at 19002 N. 128th Ave. seats 1,000 people and has 325 parking spaces.

"The immediate problem is our inability to serve the community because of crowded conditions and lack of sufficient parking," Dunikoski said. "We have people standing in the back and people sitting in the choir loft," he said.

The Rev. Michael Minogue of Our Lady of Lourdes sent a letter to Bill Woodyard, interim general manager of the Recreation Centers of Sun City

West, requesting permission to conduct Mass in Palm Ridge Recreation Center when it opens later this spring.

"We will allow them to use our facilities. However, other churches have also requested to use the space on Saturdays and Sundays so we will have to make arrangements and fit the schedules of all the church groups," Woodyard said.

Minogue said many of the members have to park their cars several blocks away from the church because of the insufficient parking.

"We are dealing with an elderly community," he said. "Many of these people have difficulty walking this distance."

Dunikoski said the church's use of the recreation center social hall will only be temporary. A second church in the expansion area is planned in two or three years, Minogue said.

The Phoenix Diocese has earmarked 6 acres it owns at the northeast corner of 151st Avenue and

See Palm Ridge, A5

## Palm Ridge approved for Masses

—From A1

Deer Valley Drive as the site of a new church.

"We're are definitely going to build a new church, but this is several years down the road," Dunikoski said.

"It will be hard for us to hold Masses in both the existing church and the recreation center but we will work through it until the new church is built," Minogue said.

"The most important thing to us is the comfort of the people."

Minogue said he noticed an increase in the congregation last year, but said he never expected the number of churchgoers to increase at this rate.

"No one anticipated this tremendous influx of people into the area," Minogue said. "We expected to reach these numbers in two years or so, but not this year. We're in quite a bind."

Woodyard said he will be able to give Our Lady of Lourdes specific information after the recreation center opens and the needs of all the local congregations are reviewed.

November 24, 1988


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P.J. Zapor / CATHOLIC SUN

Catherine Cresi (left) accompanies the Our Lady of Lourdes choir on piano while Jeanne Laux directs and Gene Emrick plays organ. The three were rehearsing with the choir for the first Masses in a new church building.

## Team writes music for new church

By P.J. Zapor  
Catholic Sun Staff

SUN CITY WEST — When parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sun City West attended Mass last weekend in their new sanctuary, more than a building and furnishings were being introduced.

The parish's choir also presented a sampling of new music composed for the occasion by their organist Gene Emrick and choir director Jeanne Laux.

Emrick, who has composed music for the dedications of two churches in other states, wrote new versions of the parts of the Mass as well as songs for processional and recessional. Only the new Mass parts were introduced last week, the other music will be used at the church's dedication, which will be held sometime after the first of the year.

HE WAS ASSISTED by Laux, whose lyrics represented the first time her writing has been set to music.

As a composing team, Laux and Emrick came together from disparate backgrounds. Although both have been active in music most of their lives, their musical emphasis has been different.

Although he's composed music for three church dedications now as well as numerous individual liturgical pieces, Emrick has never attempted to publish his work.

"This music belongs to the parish, now," he said.

EMRICK HAS BEEN playing organ since he was about five years old. He first joined a choir in high school. He majored in music in college and went on to business while in college. He has turned his talent into a retirement business as an organ teacher for the Yamaha company.

On the other hand, picked up musical training on his own. "I've been in a choir just about all my life," she explained.



### Minstrel Ministry

Part of a Series

In this series, we profile some of the people who serve the diocese in the ministry of music.

Although she'd been in the choir at Our Lady of Lourdes when the parish was first established, she wasn't particularly involved. At least not until Msgr. James McFadden came to the parish to fill in for the ailing pastor and recognized Laux from her days in St. Louis the King parish. "He talked me into it — being the organist — and then I became choir director," about six years ago.

Emrick moved to Arizona about a year ago after retiring from a

career with Honeywell which took him all over the world. He first broached the idea of writing music for the church dedication about a year ago and the choir has been rehearsing the finished product since September.

"THESE PEOPLE ARE really dedicated," said their director, Laux. "They come to rehearsal, twice a week, three times a week, it doesn't matter, they come."

Among the pieces being used either for the opening or the dedication is a hymn, "Our Lady of Lourdes," which features both lyrics that Laux wrote as a poem and verses written by another member of the choir, Mike Staursky.

Among the fans of the choir and of the new music for his church is pastor Fr. Cornelius Moynihan.

"It's a very cohesive group," he said. "They've had a very large group and a good choir under Jeanne's direction."

## Building combines old, new

SUN CITY WEST — This holiday season, nearly all of the 1,450 registered parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes could fit in their church for one event at the same time.

Last weekend, the first Masses were celebrated in the new 1,000-seat church. The building will be formally dedicated in a ceremony after the first of the year, said pastor Fr. Cornelius A. Moynihan.

The building's tall belltower with its gold dome is a striking presence among the neat rows of Sun City West homes. The tower itself includes a carillon that rings out the hours over the retirement community.

Inside, the church was built to accommodate traditional tastes as well as modern convenience. A

huge, open-beam ceiling and a detailed rose window are reminiscent of historic European cathedrals; while the electric doors at one entrance, gently sloping aisles and mauve and grey colors are strictly 20th century American.

Building committee chairman Stan Stanley said most of the \$2.5 million cost for the church and an administrative center has been raised within the last year, leaving a debt of \$650,000 to \$700,000.

The church was designed by architect Dean Glasko, while Maureen McGuire designed the stained glass and sanctuary decor. Still to be installed at the church are stained glass windows of each of 12 apostles and a sculpture of the Madonna.

P.J. ZAPOR

# Our Lady of Lourdes parish soon to have new building

By CHRISTINE SELIGA  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Construction is nearing completion of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 12738 Marble Drive.

For the past seven months, crews have been there building the walls, doors, bell tower and roof of the church.

The parish has existed for about eight years. Its first building, Madonna Hall, was built about seven years ago.

"What we're occupying now is the hall," said the Rev. Cornelius Moynihan. "It was built as a multi-purpose building."

Moynihan has been pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes for three years.

He said the church's long range plan was to get out of debt from building the hall before they would start construction of a church building.

Offices for priests, secretaries and conference rooms also are being built with the church.

Dean L. Glasco Architects Inc., the firm that designed Madonna Hall, also designed the church building.

About 1,400 families attend the parish. It is the only Catholic church in Sun City West.

"We expect to grow to about 2,400 families when Sun City West is built, you know, completed," he said.

The church and offices are going to cost about \$2 million. There also will be some renovation of Madonna Hall.

"Once we get the church and we're able to use this hall exclusively as a hall, we'll be able to have a lot more things going on," Moynihan said.

Moynihan said financing the building has not been too difficult because of the generosity of parishioners.

"We've been very lucky. Most of it has come from the parish but we'll probably have to borrow some, too," he said.

"People really wanted a church so it was very easy to sell them on this idea," he said.

The church is Spanish mission style with stucco walls and red tile roof. It will be 17,868 square feet and will seat 950 people with two rows for wheelchair seating. The office part will be 2,386 square feet.

The organ in Madonna Hall will be moved over to the church.

Moynihan said he thinks the parishioners are very excited about the new building.

Moynihan said parishioners had been asking when would the construction project begin?

"Now they're asking when are we going to be done," he said.

Construction started the beginning of February and is scheduled for completion by Nov. 1, he said.

Parish council president Lenore Forti said she knows getting construction done on time can be tricky.

"We're hoping against hope that nothing goes wrong and we can move in before Christmas," she said.

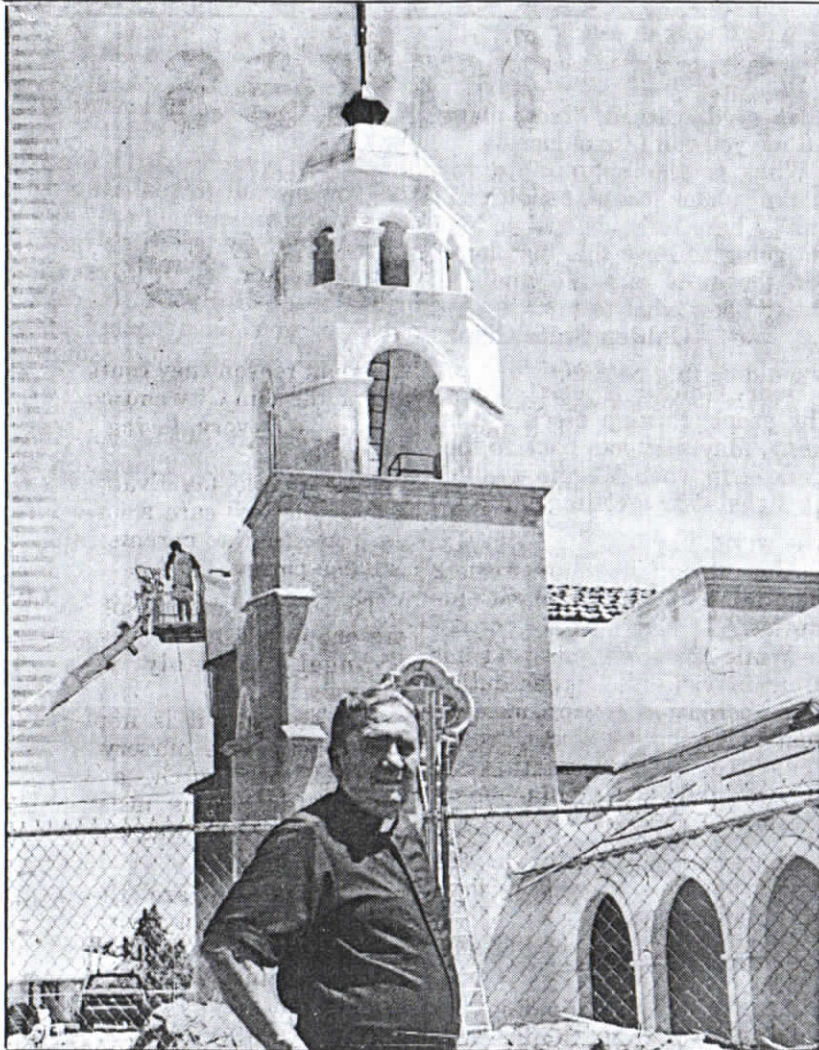
Forti has been parish council president for a year. She said so

far the construction of the church building has come off without a hitch.

"The church here has been built faster and is being paid for faster than any other parish in the country," Forti said.

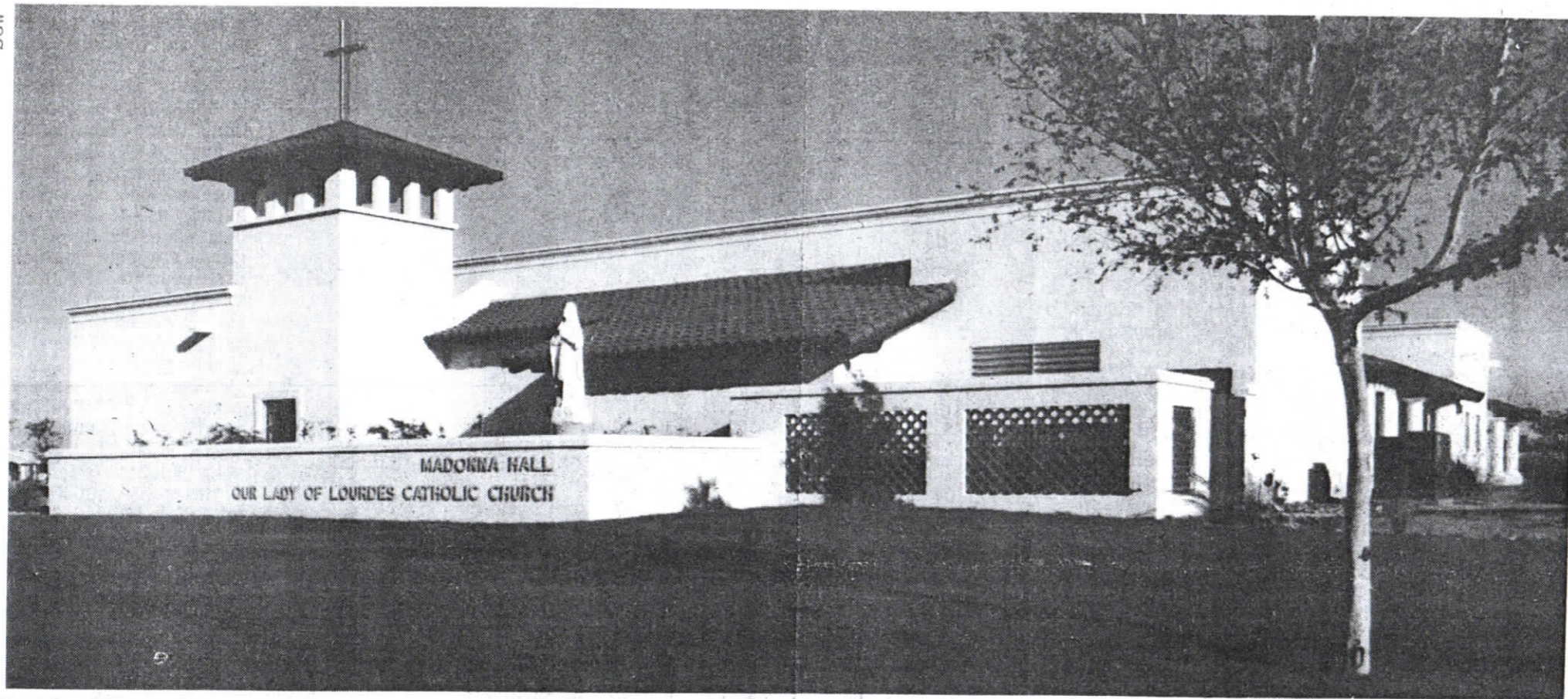
The parishioners all agreed they wanted a church building, she said. That unanimity reflects the unity of the parish and visitors to parish council meetings have commented on how well everyone gets along, she said.

"They just couldn't get over the rapport everybody has," Forti said.



News-Sun photo by Christine Seliga

**NEW CHURCH** — The Rev. Cornelius Moynihan, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sun City West, stands before the new church building while a construction worker puts the finishing touches on the building front.



The new Catholic Bishop of Phoenix, Thomas J. O'Brien will preside over the blessing and dedication of Sun City West's first permanent church building, Our Lady of Lourdes Madonna Hall. A Mass will be said at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, with a reception for Bishop O'Brien to follow at 7:30. The public is invited.

## Bishop to dedicate SCW's first church

Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien, newly ordained bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, will preside over the blessing and dedication of Our Lady of Lourdes Madonna Hall at a dedication Mass at 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

The Mass will be followed by a reception in honor of Bishop O'Brien, hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Guild, at 7:30.

The public is invited to the Mass and the reception.

**THE CONGREGATION** will also be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the third anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

"It's a momentous occasion," said Father Vincent Nevulis, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.

"The Bishop is the chief shepherd of the church." In a symbolic ceremony, he said, Bishop O'Brien will "receive the church." He will be given a set of

keys and the building's blueprints.

**MADONNA HALL** serves as both church and hall. It is the first and only permanent church facility in Sun City West.

Father Nevulis said, "Three years ago, we started with 22 people and nothing. Today we have this magnificent structure.

"It's being considered for first prize in the Arizona Architects' Association Competition for 1981. The building has

been used since Aug. 14, 1981."

**FATHER NEVULIS** said 20 Valley priests will be in attendance. Retired Bishop of Manchester, N.H., Ernest Primeau, a Sun Citian, will also attend, Father Nevulis said.

Bishop O'Brien will be accompanied by Father John Spaulding, Chancellor of the Phoenix Diocese; Richard Czarnecki, director of finance and administration and John McGuire, director of buildings and properties.



## ***Our Lady of Lourdes***

8-29-81

Recently completed Madonna Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 128th Avenue and Marble Drive, is the new home for all the parish's religious and social events. Rev. Vincent Nevulis, pastor, said the hall is the first phase of a building program. Present facilities include Chapel of Ease for daily

Masses, funerals and weddings; a larger area for weekend services; a kitchen, work storage area, dining area, conference rooms and offices. Masses are celebrated at 8 a.m. daily, at 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and eves of holy days, and at 8 and 10 a.m. on Sundays and holy days.

(News-Sun Photo)

3/9/79

## Bishop names pastor for new SCW parish

Most Rev. James Rausch, Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix, has announced the appointment of Rev. Vincent Nevulis as pastor of a new parish in Sun City West.

The new parish in Sun City West, called Our Lady of Lourdes, is bounded on the west by Meeker Road, on the south by Bell Road and on the east by the Agua Fria River.

Father Nevulis is a native of Ashley, Penn. He

completed his undergraduate studies at Mount St. Mary's College and in 1956 was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Tucson. Most recently, Father Nevulis was pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Flagstaff.

Father Nevulis' immediate tasks include convening meetings of Catholic laity to begin the process of formally organizing the parish. Dai-

ly Mass is celebrated in the pastor's residence. Beginning March 18, Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. in the Social Hall, Sun City West.



REV. VINCENT  
NEVULIS